

§ 654.5

(5) County equivalents which are towns in the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

(c) *Labor surplus area* shall mean a civil jurisdiction that, in accordance with the criteria specified in § 654.5, has been classified as a labor surplus area.

(d) *Reference period* shall mean the two year period ending December 31 of the year prior to the October 1 annual date of eligibility determination.

[44 FR 1689, Jan. 5, 1979, as amended at 44 FR 26071, May 5, 1979; 48 FR 15616, Apr. 12, 1983; 53 FR 23347, June 21, 1988]

§ 654.5 Classification of labor surplus areas.

(a) *Basic criteria.* The Assistant Secretary shall classify a civil jurisdiction as a labor surplus area whenever, as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average unemployment rate for all civilian workers in the civil jurisdiction for the reference period is (1) 120 percent of the national average unemployment rate for civilian workers or higher for the reference period as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or (2) 10 percent or higher. No civil jurisdiction shall be classified as a labor surplus area if the average unemployment rate for all civilian workers for the reference period is less than 6.0 percent.

(b) *Criteria for exceptional circumstances.* The Assistant Secretary, upon petition submitted by the appropriate State employment security agency, may classify a civil jurisdiction, a Metropolitan Statistical Area, or a Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area as a labor surplus area whenever such an area meets or is expected to meet the unemployment tests established under § 654.5(a) as a result of exceptional circumstances. For purposes of this paragraph "exceptional circumstances" shall mean catastrophic events, such as natural disasters, plant closings, and contract cancellations expected to have a long-term impact on labor market area conditions, discounting temporary or seasonal factors. For purposes of this paragraph, "Metropolitan Statistical Area" and "Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area" shall mean the areas officially

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defined and designated as such by the Office of Management and Budget.

(Approved by OMB under control number 1205-0207)

[48 FR 15616, Apr. 12, 1983, as amended at 53 FR 23347, June 21, 1988]

§ 654.6 Termination of classification.

(a) *Basic procedure.* The Assistant Secretary shall terminate the classification of a civil jurisdiction as a labor surplus area after any year in which the Assistant Secretary determines that the criteria established under § 654.5 (a) are no longer met.

(b) *Procedure for exceptional circumstances.* The Assistant Secretary shall terminate the classification of a civil jurisdiction classified as a labor surplus area pursuant to the provisions of § 654.5(b) after any year in which the Assistant Secretary determines that the exceptional circumstances criteria of that paragraph are no longer met.

[44 FR 1689, Jan. 5, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 15616, Apr. 12, 1983]

§ 654.7 Publication of area classifications.

The Assistant Secretary shall publish annually a list of labor surplus areas together with geographic descriptions thereof. The Assistant Secretary periodically may cause these lists to be published in the Federal Register.

[44 FR 1689, Jan. 5, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 15616, Apr. 12, 1983]

§ 654.8 Services to firms and individuals in labor surplus areas.

To carry out the purposes and policy objectives of Executive Order 12073 and Executive Order 10582, the Assistant Secretary shall cooperate with and assist the State employment service agencies and the Secretary of Commerce, as appropriate, to:

(a) Provide relevant labor market data and related economic information to assist in the initiation of industrial expansion programs in labor surplus areas;

(b) Identify upon request the skills and numbers of unemployed persons available for work in labor surplus areas, providing such information to firms interested in establishing new